

**PAJARO RIVER BASIN STUDY
GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS**

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: This project is a watershed study centering on the Pajaro River and includes the California counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito. The study will focus on flood control solutions and other purposes for the entire 12,000-square-mile watershed.

<u>TOTAL FUNDING:</u>	<u>RECON</u>	<u>FEASIBILITY</u>
TOTAL COST:	\$ 100,000	\$2,000,000
FEDERAL COST:	\$ 100,000	\$1,000,000
NON-FEDERAL COST:	\$ 0	\$1,000,000
TOTAL FEDERAL COST THROUGH FY04:	\$ 100,000	\$ 0
FISCAL YEAR 05 BUDGET:	\$ 0	\$ 0
COST TO COMPLETE:	\$ 0	\$1,000,000

FY 04 AND 05 ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The Initiation of the Pajaro Basin Watershed Feasibility Study is anticipated to begin in June 2004.

ISSUES AND OTHER INFORMATION: A Reconnaissance Study was completed in January 2002, indicating a strong Federal interest in developing a watershed Feasibility Study. The Pajaro Flood Prevention Authority (FPA), which is a technical committee representing the four counties, submitted a Letter of Intent to support the Feasibility study. However, the FPA also contracted for it's own watershed investigation, focusing only on flood control, and chose not to execute a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement to initiate the Corps' Feasibility Study.

The findings of the FPA study concurred with the Corp's ongoing effort to increase the flood protection provided by the levee system along the lower Pajaro River. As part of the Environmental coordination for the Flood Control project, the Resource Agencies (National Marine Fisheries Service, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and California Fish & Game) suggested a geomorphic alternative be considered to restore a more natural sinuosity to the river. Environmental Restoration, however, is not a project purpose for a flood control project, and further evaluation of the alternative cannot be pursued as it has been determined to be infeasible due to insufficient National Economic Development benefits. Restoration is, however, a project purpose for the Watershed Study, thus the renewed interest by the Agencies and the Counties to jointly participate in order to further evaluate this approach.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: 14th District, Rep. Anna Eshoo; 15th District, Rep. Mike Honda; 16th District, Rep. Zoe Lofgren; 17th District, Rep. Sam Farr

DISTRICT: San Francisco